



Trends in Teen Births in Florida, 2009-2019

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Key Findings

- In 2009-2019, the birth rate and percentage of repeat births among teen mothers (ages 15-19) declined significantly. However, a number of Florida counties show a significantly higher number of births than expected.
- Teen birth rates declined across all racial/ethnic groups examined. Yet, non-Hispanic Black teen mothers have twice the rate of births compared to non-Hispanic White teen mothers.
- The percentage of repeat births among teen mothers declined across all racial/ethnic groups examined, with non-Hispanic Other teens having the highest percentage by 2019.
- Teen birth rates and percentages of repeat teen births (ages 15-19) among mothers who did not graduate high school declined across all racial/ethnic groups examined.
- Percentages of preterm births and infants born at low birthweight varied across racial/ethnic groups, with non-Hispanic Black teens having the highest percentages.

Introduction

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “teen pregnancy and childbearing bring substantial social and economic costs through immediate and long-term impacts on teen parents and their children” [1]. Teen mothers tend to have less education and are more likely to live in poverty than their peers. Additionally, infants born to teen mothers have a higher likelihood of being born prematurely, having a low birth weight, and infant death [2-4].

Since the 1990s, teen pregnancy rates have declined across all racial/ethnic backgrounds in the United States, reaching a record low of 17.4 per 1,000 women ages 15-19 in 2018, with a provisional rate of 16.6 per 1,000 women in 2019 [5-7]. In Florida, the rate of births to teen mothers has also seen a steady decline since the 1990s, from 69.1 in 1990 to a record low of 16.2 in 2019 [8-9].

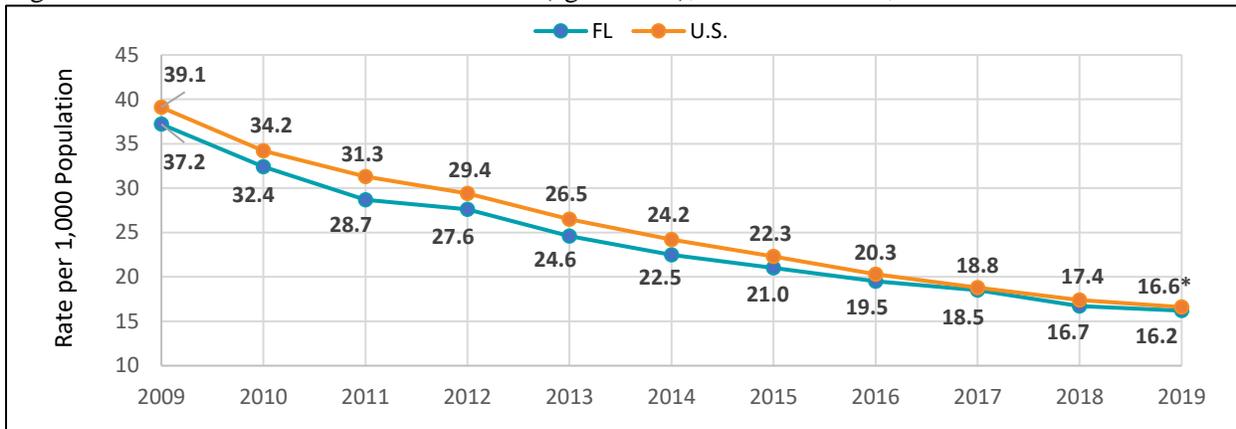
Methods

Teen births are defined as births to mothers ages 15-19 and repeat teen births are subsequent births to teen mothers. This report is based on 2009-2019 infant and birth data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) and FLHealthCHARTS birth query systems—which is provided by the Florida Department of Health’s Bureau of Vital

Statistics. The birth query system provides counts and rates for Florida’s resident births as reported to the Bureau of Vital Statistics on birth certificates. Data on the mothers’ education level are also obtained through birth certificates. Analysis of trends were done using JoinPoint statistical software. Annual percentage change is how the trends in birth counts are characterized. References to increases and decreases in rates indicates that differences are statistically significant from zero at the $\alpha = 0.05$ level.

Teen birth rates have declined significantly from 2009 to 2019.

Figure 1. Resident birth rates of teen mothers (ages 15-19), Florida vs. U.S., 2009-2019

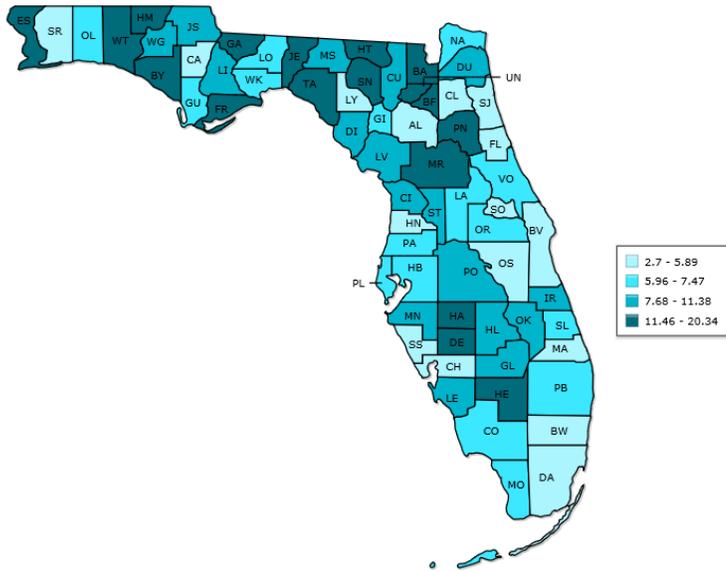


* 2019 U.S. data are provisional and subject to change.

Source: FLHealthCHARTS, NVSS [6,9,10].

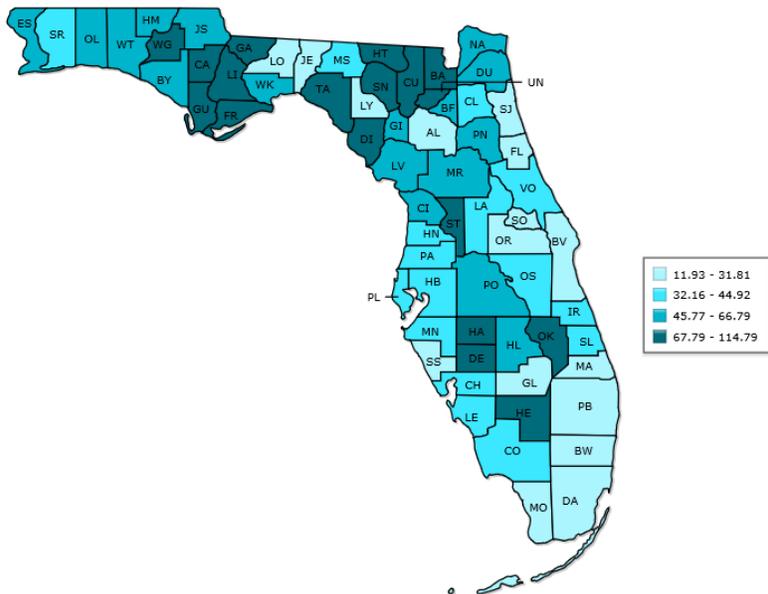
- The teen birth rate in Florida has decreased by 56.5%, from 37.2 per 1,000 population in 2009 to 16.2 per 1,000 population in 2019. This decrease was statistically significant from 2009 to 2011 and from 2011 to 2019. Similarly, the national teen birth rate dropped 57.5%, from 39.1 per 1,000 population in 2009 to a provisional rate of 16.6 per 1,000 population in 2019 (Figure 1).
- The reasons for the decline in teen birth rates are not clear. However, research suggests that it may be due to the decrease in the percentage of teens who have ever had sexual intercourse and the increase in the percentage of sexually active teens using contraceptive methods; such as female reliance on a wider range of hormonal methods [10-11].
- While the teen birth rate has steadily declined since 2009, a previous analysis showed a number of counties in Florida have a statistically significantly higher number of births among teens than expected. In 2017 through 2019, teen births (ages 15-19) were statistically significantly higher in 41 counties (Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Citrus, Columbia, Desoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Lake, Lee, Levy, Liberty, Manatee, Marion, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Polk, Putnam, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton and Washington) and statistically significantly lower in 14 counties (Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Clay, Leon, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Saint Johns, Sarasota and Seminole) [12].

Figure 2: Teen Birth Rates (Ages 15-17) by County, 2017-2019; Rate per 1,000 Population



Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

Figure 3: Teen Birth Rates (Ages 18-19) by County, 2017-2019; Rate per 1,000 Population

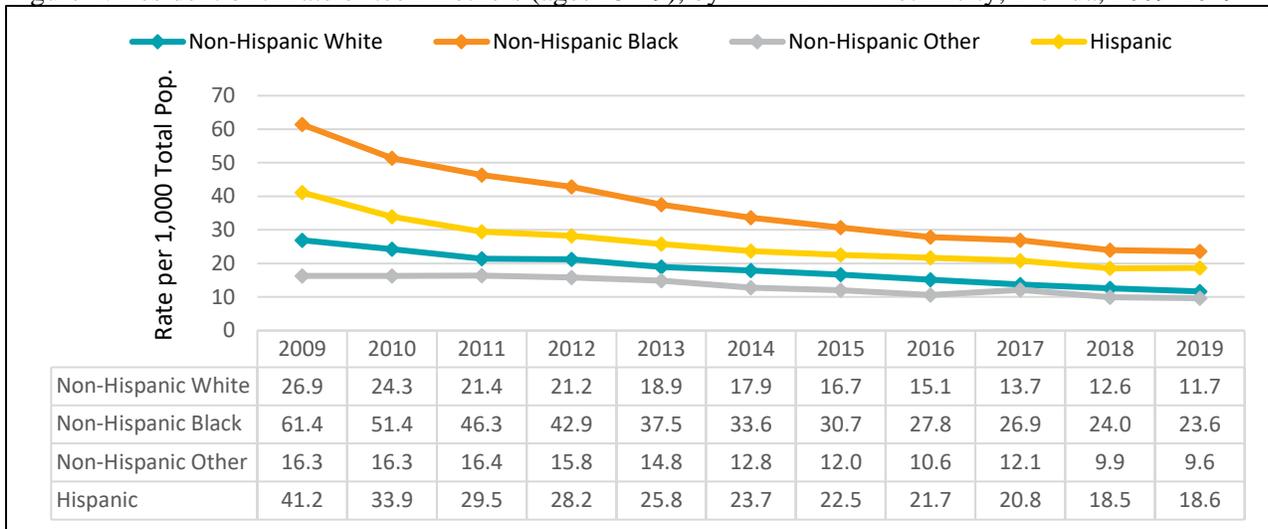


Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- In 2017-2019, teen birth rates varied for teens ages 15-17 and 18-19 (Figures 2 and 3).
- In 2017-2019, all Florida counties were below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 36.2 per 1,000 population for teens ages 15-17 (Figure 2) [14].
- In 2017-2019, two Florida counties were above the Healthy People 2020 goal of 104.6 per 1,000 population for teens ages 18-19 (Figure 3). These two counties were Hamilton (114.8) and Franklin (109.0).

Teen birth rates have declined significantly across all racial/ethnic groups. However, the birth rate among non-Hispanic Black teens was more than twice the rate for non-Hispanic White teens.

Figure 4. Resident birth rate of teen mothers (ages 15-19), by mother’s race/ethnicity, Florida, 2009-2019



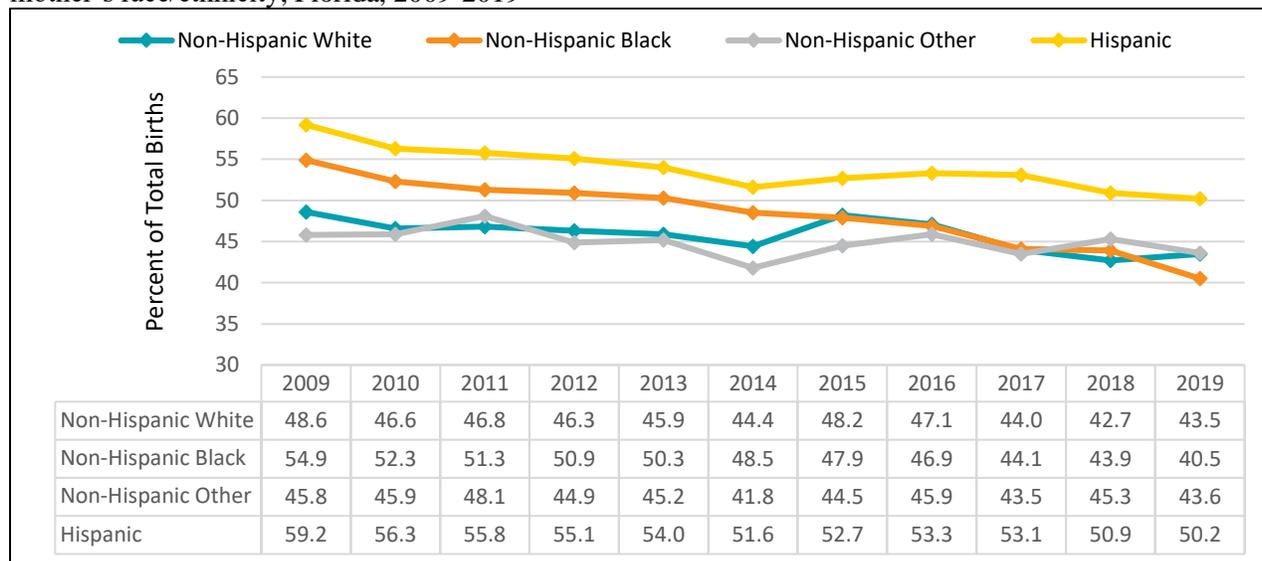
Note: Excludes teens from unknown race/ethnic backgrounds.

Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- In Florida, the teen birth rate for non-Hispanic Black teens (23.6 per 1,000 population) was more than twice the rate for non-Hispanic White teens (11.7 per 1,000 population) in 2019. The non-Hispanic Black teen birth rate has been consistently higher than any other racial/ethnic group in each year (Figure 4).
- From 2009 to 2019, there has been a statistically significant decline in teen birth rates across all racial/ethnic groups. The greatest decline was seen among non-Hispanic Black teens, with a 61.6% decrease, from 61.4 per 1,000 population in 2009 to 23.6 per 1,000 population in 2019. Among non-Hispanic White teens, the teen birth rate decreased by 56.5% (from 26.9 per 1,000 population to 11.7 per 1,000 population); by 41.1% among non-Hispanic Other teens (from 16.3 per 1,000 population to 9.6 per 1,000 population); and by 54.9% among Hispanic teens (from 41.2 per 1,000 population to 18.6 per 1,000 population).

The percentage of births among teen mothers who did not graduate high school declined across all racial/ethnic groups from 2009 to 2019.

Figure 5. Percentage of births among teen mothers (ages 15-19) who did not graduate high school, by mother's race/ethnicity, Florida, 2009-2019



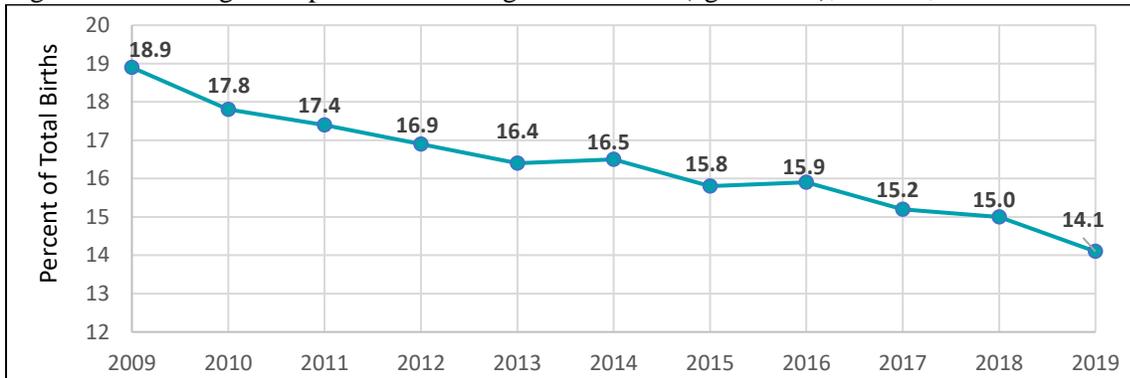
Note: Excludes teens from unknown race/ethnic backgrounds.

Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- The percentage of births among teen mothers who did not graduate high school declined across all racial/ethnic groups. The largest decline was observed among non-Hispanic Black teen mothers, significantly decreasing by 26.2%; from 54.9% in 2009 to 40.5% in 2019 (Figure 5).
- A smaller decline was observed among the other groups as well, including non-Hispanic White (10.5%), non-Hispanic Other (4.8%), and Hispanic (15.2%). These declines were statistically significant, except among the non-Hispanic Other teen mothers.
- Despite a significant decline, the percentage of births among teen mothers who did not graduate high school has consistently remained the highest among Hispanics.

The percentage of repeat births in Florida has declined since 2009.

Figure 6. Percentage of repeat births among teen mothers (ages 15-19), Florida, 2009-2019

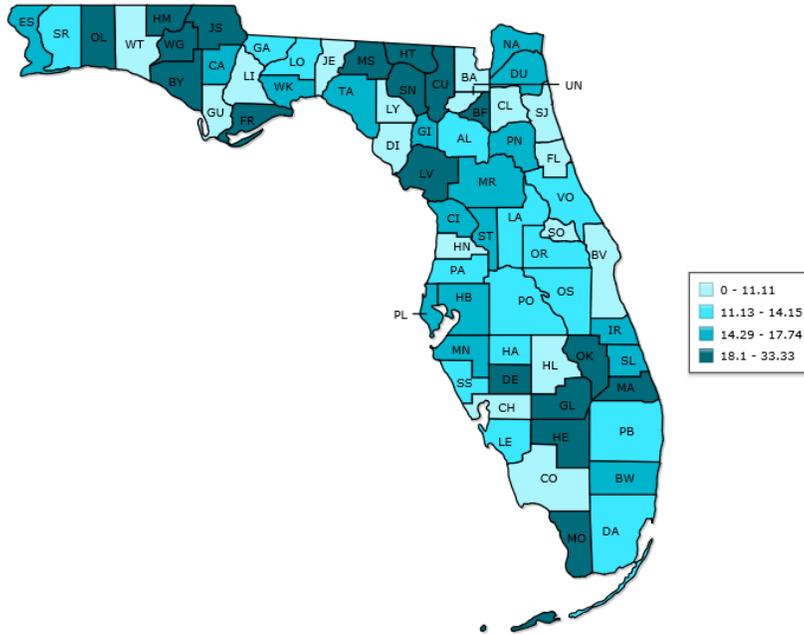


Note: U.S. 2009-2019 data not available.

Source: FLHealthCHARTS [9]

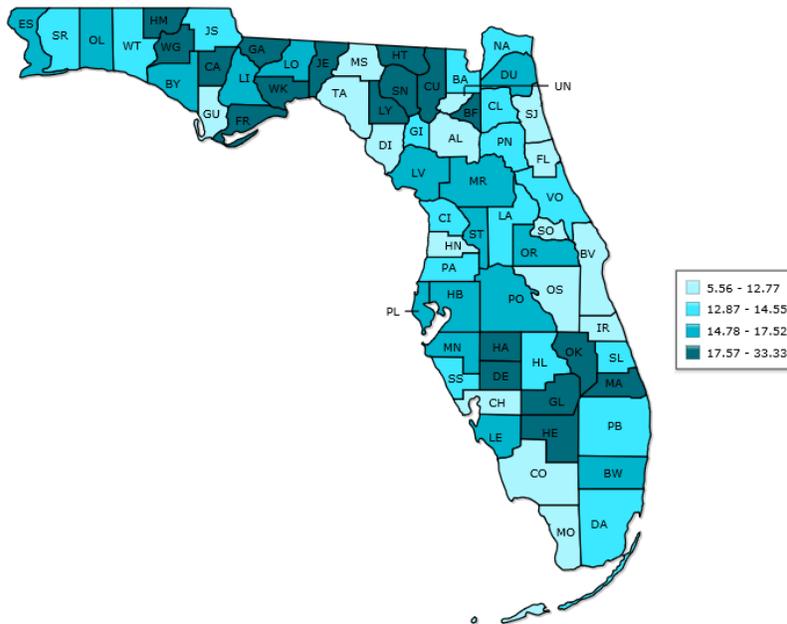
- The percentage of repeat births to teen mothers in Florida decreased by 25.4%. This decrease was statistically significant from 18.9% in 2009 to 14.1% in 2019 (Figure 6).
- While the repeat teen birth rate has steadily declined since 2009, a previous analysis showed a number of counties in Florida have a statistically significantly higher number of repeat births among teens than expected. In 2017 through 2019, teen births among females aged 15-19 was statistically significantly higher in seven counties (Columbia, DeSoto, Franklin, Holmes, Marion, Okeechobee and Suwannee) and statistically significantly lower in three counties (Alachua, Miami-Dade and Osceola) [12].

Figure 7: Percentage of Repeat Births to Teens (Ages 15-19) by County, 2019



Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

Figure 8: Percentage of Repeat Births to Teens (Ages 15-19) by County, 2017-2019

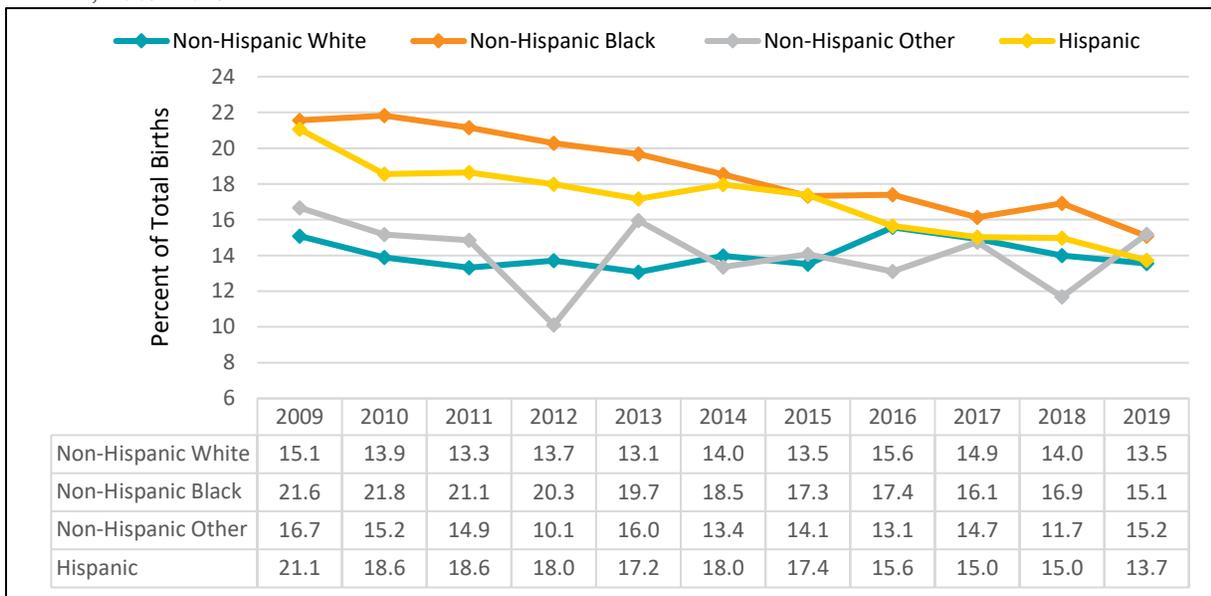


Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- In 2019, the percentage of repeat births to teen mothers varied by county. The percentages ranged from 0.0% to 33.3% (Figure 7) [13].
- In 2017 - 2019, Union County (5.6%) had the lowest percentage of repeat teen births to teen mothers. In contrast, Lafayette County (33.3%) had the highest percentage of repeat births to teen mothers (Figure 8) [13].

The percentage of repeat births among teen mothers in Florida from 2009 to 2019 declined across all racial/ethnic groups.

Figure 9. Percentage of repeat births among teen mothers (ages 15-19), by mother’s race/ethnicity, Florida, 2009-2019

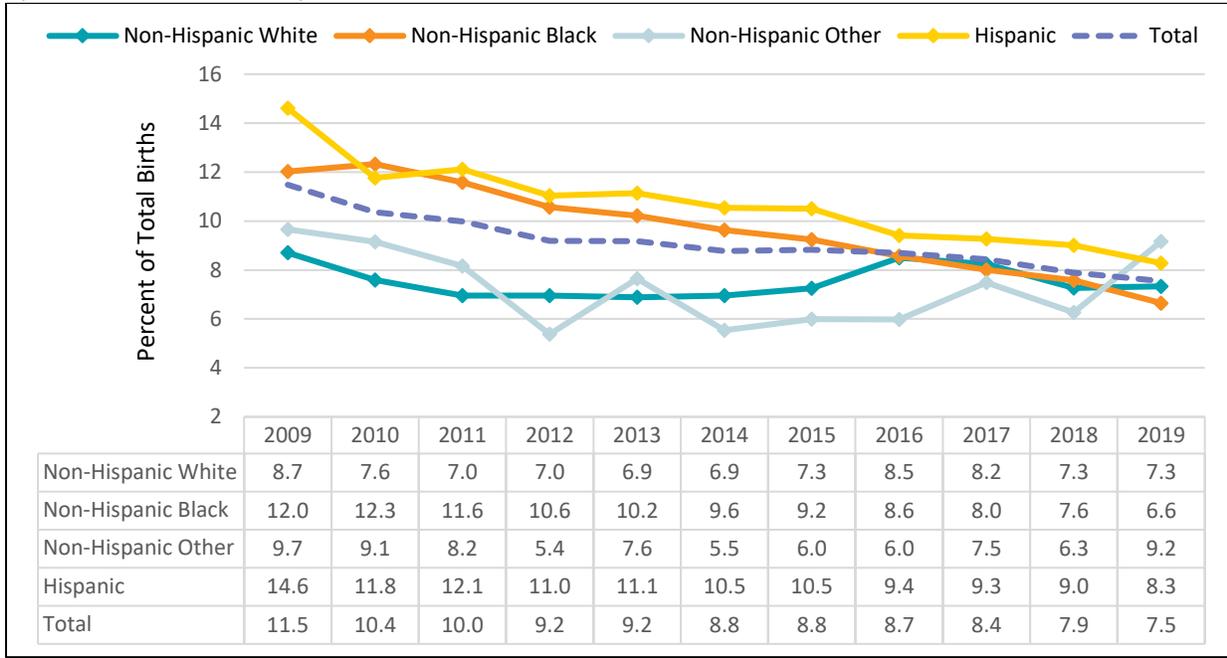


Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- From 2009 to 2019, the percentage of repeat births declined significantly among non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic teens. There was a 30.1% decrease among non-Hispanic Black teens (21.6% to 15.1%) and 35.1% among Hispanic teens (21.1% to 13.7%) (Figure 9).
- In contrast, there was a nonsignificant decline in the percentage of repeat births among non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Other teens. The percentage of repeat births decreased 10.6% among non-Hispanic White teens (15.1% to 13.5%) and 9.0% among non-Hispanic Other teens (16.7% to 15.2%).

The percentage of repeat births among teen mothers who did not graduate high school declined across all racial/ethnic groups.

Figure 10. Percentage of repeat births among teen mothers (ages 15-19) who did not graduate high school, by mother's race/ethnicity, Florida, 2009-2019

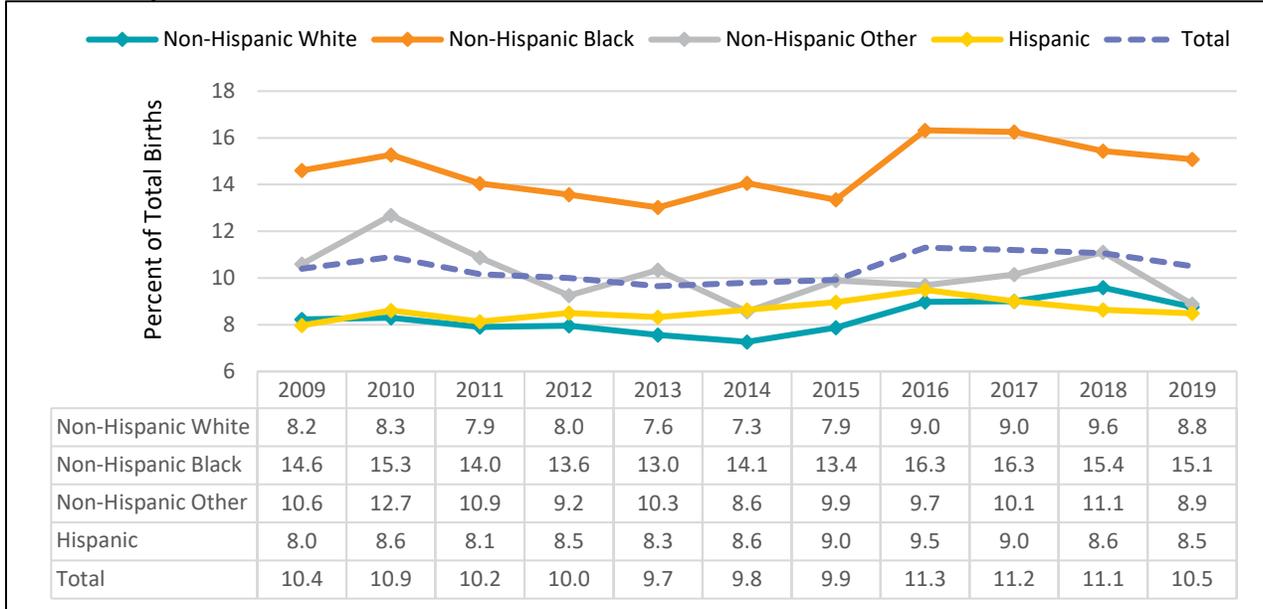


Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- From 2009 to 2019, the total percentage of repeat births among teen mothers who did not graduate high school significantly decreased, by 34.8% (11.5% to 7.5%). There was also a significant decrease among non-Hispanic Black teens (45.0%), from 12.0% to 6.6% and Hispanic teens (43.2%), from 14.6% to 8.3% (Figure 10). By 2019, non-Hispanic Black teens had the lowest percentage of all other groups.
- In addition, the percentage of repeat births among non-Hispanic Other teens who did not graduate high school decreased by 5.2%, from 9.7% in 2009 to 9.2% in 2019. This decrease was statistically significant for the 2009 to 2015 period.
- Among non-Hispanic White teens, there was a non-significant decrease of 16.1%, from 8.7% in 2009 to 7.3% in 2019.

Percentage of infants born at low birth weight (LBW) to teen mothers increased across most racial/ethnic groups, except among teens from the non-Hispanic Other group. The rate among non-Hispanic Black teens is almost two times the rate for non-Hispanic White teens.

Figure 11. Percentage of infants born at LBW among teen mothers (ages 15-19), by mother’s race/ethnicity, Florida, 2009-2019



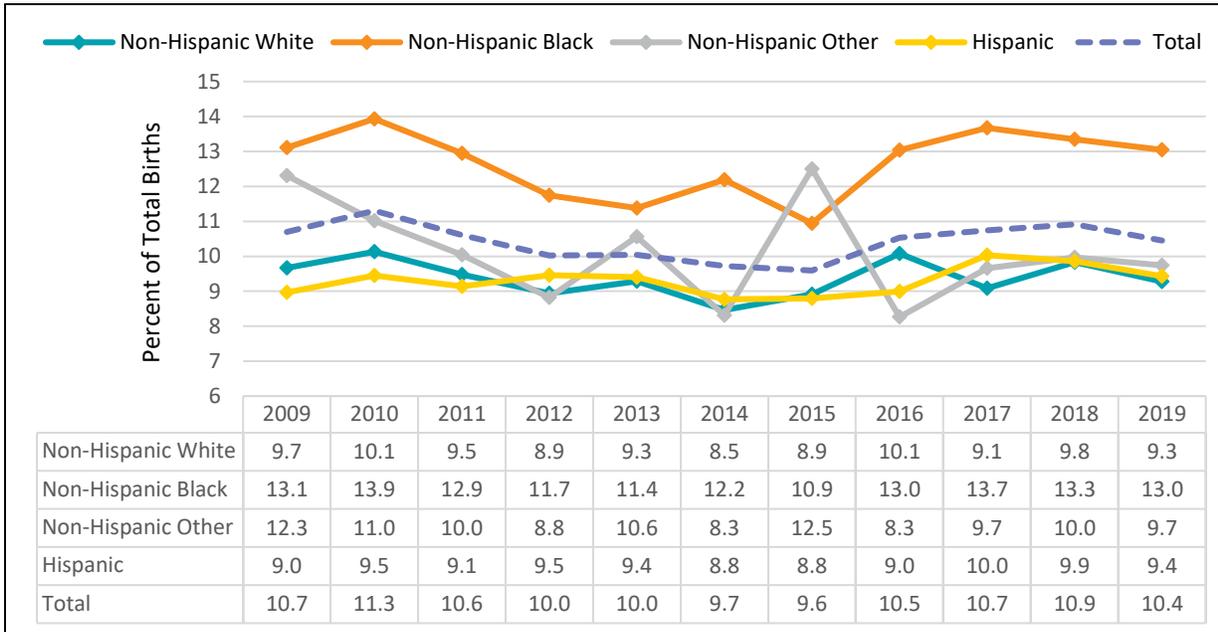
Note: Total represents the statewide percentage of all births that were LBW.

Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- From 2009 to 2019, the total percentage of infants born at LBW to teen mothers in Florida increased by 1.0%, from 10.4% to 10.5%. This increase was not statistically significant (Figure 11).
- During the time frame, the percentage of infants born at LBW among teen mothers increased by 7.3% among non-Hispanic White teen mothers (8.2% to 8.8%). This increase was statistically significant from 2014 to 2019. In addition, there was a non-significant increase (3.4%) in the percentage of infants born at LBW among non-Hispanic Black mothers, from 14.6% to 15.1%.
- From 2009 to 2019, the percentage of infants born at LBW significantly increased, by 6.3%, among Hispanic teen mothers, from 8.0% to 8.5%.
- By 2019, the rate of infants born at LBW was highest among non-Hispanic Black teen mothers, a rate almost twice the rate of non-Hispanic White teen mothers.

Percentage of preterm births among teen mothers declined across racial/ethnic groups, except among Hispanics. In 2019, Non-Hispanic Black teen mothers had the highest percentage of preterm births compared to any other group.

Figure 12. Percentage of preterm births among teen mothers (ages 15-19), by mother’s race/ethnicity, Florida, 2009-2019



Note: Total represents the statewide percentage of all births that were preterm (less than 37 weeks gestation).

Source: FLHealthCHARTS [13]

- From 2009 to 2019, the overall percentage of preterm births, births that occur before 37 weeks of gestation, among teen mothers in Florida saw a non-significant decrease of 2.8%, from 10.7% to 10.4%. By 2019, the percentages among Hispanic and non-Hispanic White teen mothers were the lowest among all groups examined, while the non-Hispanic Black percentage remained the highest (Figure 12).
- From 2009 to 2019, the percentage of preterm births among teen mothers decreased by 4.1% among non-Hispanic White teen mothers (9.7% to 9.3%). Among non-Hispanic Black teen mothers there was a decrease of 0.8% (from 13.1% to 13.0%). These decreases were not statistically significant.
- In contrast, there was a non-significant increase in the percentage of preterm births among Hispanic teen mothers, from 9.0% to 9.4% (4.4%).

Discussion

Tracking and monitoring trends in teen births helps measure the progress in meeting the need for providing quality contraception and reproductive health services to teenaged women in need. This information may be used to encourage further analyses to investigate factors that contribute to the disparities present in certain populations and areas, as well as development of intervention and prevention strategies for improving teen pregnancy outcomes.

Most pregnant teens encounter the health care system while receiving prenatal care [15,16]. This presents an opportunity to help prevent subsequent pregnancies during their teen years. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends counseling women about birth spacing and contraception use. Research shows that prenatal counseling increases the likelihood of using conception and using more effective methods. Additionally, home visiting and similar programs have been shown to reduce teen pregnancy [17,18].

According to the CDC, factors that contribute to teen pregnancy and births can range from geographic disparities (rural areas) and socioeconomic disparities, such as low education, low income, limited community and school involvement, substance abuse, and exposure to violence. As a result, individual-level interventions are necessary along with approaches that address community and societal levels of social determinants of health.

Although statewide trends across several teen pregnancy indicators have been moving in a positive direction since 2009, there is still room for improvement to reduce and prevent teen births. For example:

- Increasing services to teens in Family Planning clinics or comprehensive health clinics geared toward adolescents.
- Increase outreach, reproductive health education, and education about available Family Planning services in schools and communities to teens.
- Increase the number of teens using an effective method of contraception, if they are sexually active.
- Extend Family Planning clinic hours to include early morning and late evening hours.
- Include both young women and men in conversations and interventions designed to reduce teen pregnancy [19].

Currently, there are a number of state programs and activities aimed at addressing the issue of teen births and mitigating contributing factors among disparate groups. Several are listed below. A full list can be found in the [Florida Actual vs Expected Teen Births and Repeat Births by County 2017 through 2019 Report](#) [12].

- Prevention of initial or repeat teen births is a Family Planning Program objective which aligns with the federal Title X Program priorities and key issues.
- All 67 county health departments (CHDs) offer effective forms of contraception.
- In 2013, a benchmark for CHDs was added to the CHD Quarterly Snapshot Report to measure the increase in number of teens aged 15-19 years using or adopting an effective method of contraception. Throughout Florida, effective or higher contraception use among females aged 15-19 increased from 74.4% in 2013 to 85.5% in 2019 [16].
- Another benchmark for CHDs measures long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) use among teens aged 15-19. LARC methods are highly effective in preventing pregnancy and are considered a significant tool in reducing unplanned or unwanted pregnancies, which includes the teen population. Throughout Florida, LARC use among females aged 15-19 increased from 2.3% in 2013 to 10.4% in 2019 [16].

Summary

From 2009 to 2019, rates of birth and repeat births among teen mothers (ages 15-19) in Florida declined significantly. Although rates of teen births declined across all racial/ethnic groups, the rate among non-Hispanic Black teen mothers is over twice the rate of non-Hispanic White teen mothers. Also, the birth rate among teen mothers who did not graduate high school declined across all racial/ethnic groups. The percentage of repeat births, from 2009 to 2019, among teen mothers in Florida declined across all racial/ethnic groups. Despite a decline in teen birth rates throughout the state, a number of counties have exceeded the expected number of births among teens. Finally, percentages of preterm births and infants born at low birthweight varied across different racial/ethnic groups.

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